

Service Date: March 17, 2016

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SERVICE REGULATION
BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF MONTANA

IN THE MATTER OF the Investigation of) REGULATORY DIVISION
the Montana Public Service Commission)
into whether Mountain Water Company's) DOCKET NO. D2016.2.15
rates are Just and Reasonable)

NOTICE OF STAFF ACTION

On January 29, 2016, the Montana Public Service Commission (“Commission”) voted to initiate a proceeding to inquire into whether Mountain Water Company's (“Mountain Water”) current water rates for its Missoula, Montana customers are just and reasonable. On January 11, 2016, the Commission received the *Joint Applicants' Notice of Closing and Withdrawal of Joint Application* (“Notice”) in Docket No. D2014.12.99. The Notice stated that on January 8, 2016, the sale and transfer of Western Water stock to Liberty WWH closed, with Liberty WWH merging into Western Water and Western Water continuing as the wholly-owned subsidiary of Liberty Utilities. The Commission’s proceedings at that time were stayed by the Missoula District Court, so the Commission had not yet completed its review of the sale and transfer.

On February 3, 2016, the Commission issued a *Notice of Investigation and Intervention Deadline*. On March 2, 2016, the Commission issued a *Notice of Staff Action Granting Intervention* to the Montana Consumer Counsel (“MCC”). On March 10, 2016, the MCC issued data requests MCC-001 through MCC-004 to Mountain Water. On March 15, 2016, Mountain Water filed a *Motion for Extension of Time to Respond to Montana Consumer Counsel's Data Requests* (“Motion”). In the Motion, Mountain Water requests an extension until March 17, 2016, in which to file a motion for protective order and/or objections to MCC-001 through MCC-004. Mountain Water represents that the MCC does not oppose its motion. Through a delegation of authority to staff, the Commission hereby grants the motion. Mountain Water must file its responses, objections, or requests for a protective order to data requests MCC-001 through MCC-004 by **March 17, 2016**.

BY THE MONTANA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

BRAD JOHNSON, Chairman

TRAVIS KAVULLA, Vice Chairman

KIRK BUSHMAN, Commissioner

ROGER KOOPMAN, Commissioner

BOB LAKE, Commissioner